

Good afternoon, everyone my name is Diamond Morris and I am a senior here at the Lift Academy. First of all, I would like you all to know that I have come a mighty long way. The polished young lady you see before you was not always this “polished” :)

When I first came to high school I was a student at Phillip O Berry academy. I started off well with A's and B's but then I lost someone very close to me and it took a heavy toll on me. I started skipping classes, being standoffish, and not completing my school work, I was then sent to my home school, West Charlotte High School. For the next 2 years, I did more of the same. My mother was even about to give up on me when it came to school. I did not care anymore and had almost lost all hope.

Then last summer, my mother got a call from a man named Mr. Mikesell who discussed the opportunity of me being in the lift academy. Not knowing what it would be like, I was very afraid to commit, but something told me that I would one day make it and be able to graduate from high school. And from the time I set foot on this campus my life has changed. I worked hard to change my grades and my life, it was a fresh start for me.

As of today my grades have dramatically improved and my attendance is better than ever. Im so thankful for all my teachers. Ms. Ward and Mr.Poirier are two of the teachers that i know i can count on at any moment. I can honestly say that i truly have caring teachers who won't give up on me and care for me so much. i can come to my teachers at any time for help, support and advice. They are always there to uplift me and keep me motivated. I can't say too much about Ms. Barnes-Jones but just know that she is the best and she is one who has seen me at my worst and now at my best. I can't wait until she and my teachers see me walk across that stage in June.

The lift academy has been the best for me. I can focus better in the smaller environment and always look forward to receiving one-on-one help. I also feel safe over here and am thankful for the transportation as well. .Also, i enjoy being apart of the YDI afterschool program. I have a chance to receive a job and am learning real life skills that will help me in college and at my future job. I really appreciate the opportunity because i now know IM REALLY GONNA MAKE IT! :) . I just want to personally thank everyone in this room for a second chance and also for hearing my story.